



AG DIGEST



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Pennsylvania Agricultural
Statistics Service
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
(717) 787 3904
FAX (717) 782 4011

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Highlights

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HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 1,050,000 hogs and pigs on **Pennsylvania** farms on December 1, 1999. This estimated inventory was down 5 percent from last year's December 1 inventory. Market hog inventory, at 930,000 head, was also down 5 percent from a year ago while breeding inventory, at 120,000 head, was unchanged from 1998. The September-November 1999 pig crop totaled 400,000 head, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier. There were 46,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, the same as a year earlier. The average pigs per litter was 8.70, down from 8.90 the previous year.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 46,000 sows farrow during the December 1999-February 2000 period, 2 percent less than the actual farrowings a year ago. Farrowing intentions for the March-May quarter are projected at 46,000 sows, also 2 percent less than the same period last year. There were 3,400 hog farmers in the Keystone State during 1999, down 100 from a year ago. Of these operations: 2,450 were 1-99 head, 400 were 100-499 head, 230 were 500-999 head, 140 were over 1,000-1,999 head, 135 were 2,000-4,999 head, and 45 were 5,000+ head.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1999, was 59.4 million head. This was 4 percent below December 1998, and 2 percent below the September 1, 1999 inventory. Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was down 7 percent from December 1, 1998 and down 1 percent from September 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 53.2 million head, was 4 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter. The September-November 1999 U.S. pig crop was 25.2 million head, 3 percent less than 1998, and 1 percent less than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, 4 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.78 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.66 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs. U.S. producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 1999 - February 2000 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period last year, and 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for March-May 2000, at 2.83 million sows, are 5 percent below the same period last year and 8 percent below 1998. The number of operations with hogs totaled 98,460 during 1999, down 14 percent from last year and 19 percent below 1997.

HOGS & PIGS: NUMBER ON FARMS, DECEMBER 1, SOWS FARROWING & PIG CROP, 1998-1999

Item	Pennsylvania			United States		
	1998	1999	1999/98	1998	1999	1999/98
	(000) Head		Percent	(000) Head		Percent
Inventory - December 1:						
All Hogs & Pigs	1,100	1,050	95	62,206	59,407	96
Kept For Breeding	120	120	100	6,682	6,244	93
Market	980	930	95	55,523	53,164	96
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 Pounds	340	330	97	20,140	19,298	96
60-119 Pounds	255	250	98	13,631	13,106	96
120-179 Pounds	210	195	93	11,585	11,073	96
180 Pounds and Over	175	155	89	10,168	9,687	95
Sows Farrowing:						
December ¹ - February	47	47	100	2,929	2,891	99
March-May	48	47	98	3,086	2,986	97
June-August	48	44	92	3,054	2,920	96
September-November	46	46	100	2,993	2,869	96
Pig Crop:						
December ¹ - February	404	409	101	25,480	25,247	99
March-May	418	414	99	26,989	26,270	97
June-August	418	392	94	26,634	25,860	97
September-November	409	400	98	25,902	25,192	97
		Number			Number	
Pigs Per Litter:						
December ¹ - February	8.60	8.70	101	8.70	8.73	100
March-May	8.70	8.80	101	8.75	8.80	101
June-August	8.70	8.90	102	8.72	8.86	102
September-November	8.90	8.70	98	8.66	8.78	101

¹ December preceding year.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, DECEMBER, 1999

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Dec 1998	Nov 1999	Dec 1999 ¹	Dec 1998	Nov 1999	Dec 1999 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	2.50	2.36	2.36	2.00	1.70	1.72
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	-	-	-	2.68	2.42	2.18
Oats	Bu.	1.40	1.84	1.50	1.19	1.11	1.13
Barley	Bu.	-	-	-	2.03	2.15	2.14
Hay, All	Ton	116.00	138.00	136.00	77.50	74.00	71.10
Alfalfa	Ton	133.00	153.00	153.00	79.70	77.30	73.20
Other	Ton	105.00	125.00	126.00	71.10	64.80	65.90
Apples, Fresh Use	Cwt.	23.00	23.00	24.00	14.90	23.30	23.70
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.95	7.60	8.15	5.30	5.51	5.65
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	32.20	35.30	36.30	30.80	33.60	34.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	58.10	65.90	65.30	60.30	70.90	70.80
Calves	Cwt.	83.00	104.00	104.00	80.20	93.00	97.80
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	17.10	33.30	34.90	14.80	33.80	35.80
Sows	Cwt.	12.40	23.20	22.30	12.10	24.80	25.60
Turkeys	Lb.	.420	.460	.430	.403	.456	.422
Broilers ²	Lb.	.400	.392	. ²	.390	.374	.368
Eggs, ³	Doz.	.610	.580	.510	.629	.490	.433
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	18.30	16.80	-	18.10	14.40	12.40
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	17.60	9.80	-	17.40	11.00	10.70
All	Cwt.	18.30	16.70	12.00	18.00	14.30	12.40
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Preliminary. ² State price no longer published. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS 2 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 91 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from the November index. Lower prices for milk, soybeans, wheat, and oranges more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, calves, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, grapes, soybeans, and corn more than offset the relatively higher marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes account for about one-half point of the December index decrease.

Compared with December 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1998 for milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and apples.

Food Grains: The November Food Grains Index, at 83, was down 6.7 percent from the previous month and 18 percent below December 1998. The December all wheat price, at \$2.43 per bushel, was down 23 cents from the November price and 43 cents below December 1998.

Feed Grains & Hay: The December index was 78, up 1.3 percent from last month but 12 percent below December 1998. The corn price, at \$1.72 per bushel, was up 2 cents from November but 28 cents below the December 1998 price. The all hay price, at \$71.10 per ton, was down \$2.90 from last month and \$6.40 below December 1998. Alfalfa hay prices were down from last month but other hay prices were up.

U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS¹

Commodity	Unit	Dec 1998	Nov 1999	Dec 1999
<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat	Bu.	9.57	9.78	9.78
Corn	Bu.	6.50	6.69	6.69
Tobacco, PA Seedleaf, Type 41	Lb.	2.82	3.01	3.02
All Milk, Sold to Plants	Cwt.	29.10	30.80	30.80
Wool	Lb.	4.09	1.95	1.95
Barley	Bu.	5.85	5.98	5.99
Oats	Bu.	3.59	3.50	3.50
Potatoes	Cwt.	12.70	13.40	13.40
Rye	Bu.	4.92	5.09	5.10
Soybeans	Bu.	14.00	14.10	14.10
Apples, For Fresh Use ²	Lb.	.432	.453	.453
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	150.00	153.00	153.00
Calves	Cwt.	191.00	195.00	195.00
Hogs	Cwt.	102.00	103.00	103.00
Lambs	Cwt.	153.00	158.00	158.00
Sheep	Cwt.	62.40	65.80	65.80
Eggs	Doz.	1.43	1.51	1.51
Turkeys, Live	Lb.	.871	.900	.900

¹ Parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for month indicated. These parity prices are the legally applicable parity prices for the following calendar month. ² Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for apples for Washington and Oregon, equivalent first delivery point returns for California, and price at point of first sale for other states.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS
NOVEMBER 30, 1999

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 7,675,000 bushels on November 30, 1999, compared to 5,193,000 bushels on November 30, 1998. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 2,736,000; Golden Delicious with 1,317,000; and Rome, 1,142,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 322,350,000 pounds on November 30, 1999, compared to 218,106,000 pounds on November 30, 1998. Pear stocks in cold storage decreased from previous year's stocks of 717,000 pounds to 507,000 pounds on November 30, 1999.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 1999 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken. November 1999 stocks of chicken, at 789 million pounds, broke the previous record November high of 663 million pounds set in 1998. Cooler stocks of peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 6 percent from October 1999 and 8 percent below November 1998. Frozen pork stocks were 6 percent below last month and 7 percent below last year. Stocks of pork bellies increased 14 percent from last month, but were 38 percent below the November 1998 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies were down 21 percent from last month, but were 7 percent above last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were down 4 percent from last month, but were 19 percent above November 1998. Total pounds of turkey in freezers decreased 50 percent from last month and were 20 percent below last year.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Nov 30, 1998	Oct 31, 1999	Nov 30, 1999
	<i>(000) Lbs.</i>		
Butter	28,698	64,449	27,032
Cheese, Total Natural ...	494,469	621,013	597,978
Eggs, Frozen	9,296	8,970	8,636
Poultry, Total Frozen ...	978,163	1,320,334	1,042,555
Chicken	663,309	820,499	788,595
Turkeys	310,363	494,496	249,475
Fruits, Frozen	1,353,382	1,313,001	1,279,491
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,956,871	1,526,242	1,463,947
Vegetables, Total Frozen	2,487,151	2,577,852	2,471,465
Potatoes, Total Frozen ..	1,290,480	1,307,831	1,258,464
Meats, Total Frozen	794,123	780,276	733,194
Beef, Total Frozen	328,183	322,474	301,723
Pork, Total Frozen	443,437	438,060	411,712

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, NOVEMBER 1999

Variety	November 30, 1998					November 30, 1999				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
<i>(1,000) Bushels</i>										
York	12	0	842	451	1,305	13	1	1,942	780	2,736
Stayman	53	27	67	0	147	73	28	113	3	217
Rome	66	84	592	316	1,058	73	62	600	407	1,142
Red Delicious ...	253	439	264	69	1,025	287	539	212	90	1,128
Golden Delicious .	64	149	568	315	1,096	116	176	580	445	1,317
Jonathan	2	0	32	1	35	4	0	59	0	63
McIntosh	31	0	12	0	43	58	27	2	10	97
Cortland	11	0	0	0	11	20	0	0	0	20
Other ²	114	50	260	49	473	228	118	490	119	955
Total	606	749	2,637	1,201	5,193	872	951	3,998	1,854	7,675

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

**APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE,
PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 30, 1999**

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	November 30, 1998	October 31, 1999	November 30, 1999
<i>(1,000) Lbs.</i>			
PENNSYLVANIA			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	136,206	193,494	204,540
Controlled Atmosphere	81,900	104,328	117,810
Total Apples	218,106	297,822	322,350
PEARS:			
Bartletts	1	9	1
Other Varieties	716	1,600	506
Total Pears	717	1,609	507
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	1,656,422	2,061,583	1,483,810
Controlled Atmosphere	4,257,900	4,103,669	3,993,642
Total Apples	5,914,322	6,165,252	5,477,452
PEARS:			
Bartletts	24,493	112,712	56,185
Other Varieties	359,557	399,060	342,922
Total Pears	384,050	511,772	399,107

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Nov 1998	Oct 1999	Nov 1999	Nov 1998	Oct 1999	Nov 1999
Layers	Thous.	22,721	22,809	22,965	318,797	325,290	328,086
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,205	2,315	2,216	2,109	2,193	2,139
Eggs Produced	Million	501	528	509	6,723	7,132	7,018
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,621	6,490	4,205	31,251	38,559	33,078
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	11,435	11,944	11,383	678,003	697,787	673,736
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	22,167	22,313	23,514

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during November 1999 totaled 509 million, up 2 percent from the 501 million produced the same month last year. There were an average of 23.0 million layers on hand during the month, up 1 percent from November 1998. Average production per 100 layers totaled 2,216 eggs, compared with 2,205 eggs during the previous November.

Egg-type chicks hatched totaled 4.21 million in November, 9 percent less than the 4.62 million one year ago. Cumulative egg-type hatch for 1999 is 59.8 million, up 3 percent from those hatched during the same period last year. There were 11.4 million broiler-type chicks hatched during the month, unchanged from November 1998. Cumulative broiler-type hatch for 1999, at 138.5 million chicks, was up less than 1 percent from the 138.1 million hatched January through November 1998.

United States - Egg production in the United States totaled 7.02 billion during November, up 4 percent from the 6.72 billion produced the previous year. The total number of layers during the month averaged 328 million, up 3 percent from the 319 million on hand during November 1998.

November egg-type chicks hatched totaled 33.1 million, up 6 percent from last year. Broiler-type hatch, at 674 million chicks, was down 1 percent from November 1998. A total of 23.5 million turkey poults were placed during the month, up 6 percent from November 1998.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, NOV 1999

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	106.4	3,894
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	87.4	2,943
	Mil. Lbs. Live	108.6	3,579
Calves	Thous. Hd.	15.1	104
	Mil. Lbs. Live	4.9	31
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	240.5	8,898
	Mil. Lbs. Live	59.1	2,329
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	4.9	329
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.5	44

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in the state during November 1999 totaled 106.4 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 9 percent from November 1998. Beef production, at 108.6 million pounds live weight, was up 2 percent from November 1998. Total head slaughtered was 87,400. Live weight averaged 1,242 pounds, a decrease of 16 pounds from last year. Veal production slaughter was 4.9 million pounds live weight, 2 percent more than a year ago. Calf slaughter of 15,100 head was up less than 1 percent; average live weight increased 5 pounds to 323 pounds. Pork production, at 59.1 million pounds live weight, was up 20 percent from November 1998. Total head slaughtered was 240,500, up 18 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 5 pounds to 246 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 468,000 pounds live weight, down 13 percent from a year ago. The number slaughtered was 4,900, down 8 percent from November of last year. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 95 pounds from November 1998.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17110-9405
2301 North Cameron Street

**PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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